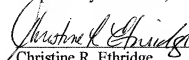


REMARKS

Claims 1 through 157 are pending and are subject to a restriction requirement. Applicants elect the invention of Group I, claims 1-152 drawn to a cell growth apparatus and method of producing the apparatus. The Examiner also imposed a requirement to elect a single species for examination in the event that Applicants elected the invention of Group I. Applicants elect Species II, claims 1, 13-18, 31, 40-45, 56-131, 133 and 135, drawn to a cell growth apparatus comprising, among other features, an elastomeric material that is partially or fully coated with an extracellular matrix-mimetic and method of producing the apparatus. Applicants understand that upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of the claims to Species I and any additional species that require all of the limitations of an allowed generic claim. Applicants also understand that upon allowance of a product claim, withdrawn process claims may be rejoined if all of the limitations of an allowable product claim are recited in the process claim.

Should the Examiner conclude that the elected claims are other than in condition for allowance, Applicants ask the Examiner to contact the undersigned so that the Examiner's concerns may be addressed expeditiously.

Respectfully submitted,



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